

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Pokrzywa at the interview held December 30, 2003, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,937 to Accad. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed and agreed during the personal interview, the invention disclosed in Accad differs from the subject matter recited in the rejected claims. To further distinguish the claimed subject matter from Accad, claims 1 and 10 are amended as discussed during the personal interview to clarify the claim language, thereby distinguishing the invention over Accad. For example, amended independent claim 1 recites a method of processing image data of a color image for marking, the color image containing overmarked pixels where at least one first color is to be overmarked by a second color, the method comprising *inter alia* modifying image data of the overmarked pixels in the raster image to achieve undercolor reduction. A similar amendment is made to independent claim 10. As discussed during the personal interview Accad does not address or contemplate undercolor reduction. Rather, Accad discloses an apparatus and method for compression for raster data. Accordingly, Accad does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims.

In addition, Applicants assert that Accad does not disclose "overmarking processing that allows both the at least one first color and the second color to be separately included in

the overmarked pixels in the same raster image." As discussed above, Accad only discloses a method and apparatus for compression of raster data. Accad is silent regarding the concept of overmarking processing as the concept would be readily understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, and as term used in the specification.

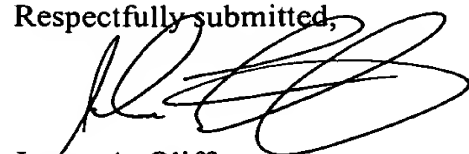
Regarding the rejection of claim 5, Applicants assert that Accad does not disclose a method of processing image data of a color image for marking . . . wherein a modified value of the image data corresponding to the at least one first color results in a reduced amount of marking material corresponding to the at least one first color being applied to a marking substrate. As Accad relates only to a method and apparatus of compressing data, Accad does not contemplate or disclose reduction in the amount of marking material being applied to a marking substrate. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 31, 2003

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